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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMON MARKET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO CONFER ON MONETARY CRISIS

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 18, 1971 -- The Council of Ministers of the European Common Market will meet Thursday (10 a.m. Brussels time) to determine what action to take in the wake of President Nixon's new economic policies.

The nine man Common Market Commission met in emergency session yesterday and was scheduled to continue discussions today at 3 p.m. (Brussels time) in order to have a report ready for the Council of Ministers. Prior to the Commission's talks, the Monetary Committee, an arm of the Community assigned to develop ways to coordinate the fiscal policies of the member states, assembled and later delivered its conclusions on the current situation to the Commission.

After its first meeting, the Commission issued the following statement on the monetary crisis:

'The Commission of the European Communities has made a preliminary examination of the consequences for the Community and world economy, as a result of the economic, monetary and trade measures taken by the United States government. The Commission notes that the principles on which the international monetary system has been based up to now and which have promoted the development of trade are now being challenged. The Commission is also preoccupied with certain measures which will have a negative effect on international trade

(more)

and may, in fact, annul the results of the Kennedy Round. In this respect, the Commission does not think that the policies of the European Community have created situations of "unfair competition" towards the United States or any other country.

[This statement is in reference to President Nixon's remark that the 10% tax on imports into the United States was being levied to eliminate the "unfair edge" held by foreign competition. Treasury Secretary John Connally also alluded to "unfair barriers" being raised by other countries against U.S. products.]

"The Commission is convinced that the member states of the Community will adopt common solutions, permitting them to maintain their cohesion, reinforce their solidarity, and contribute to new progress in international economic relations. The Commission will devote its fullest energies to finding and carrying out such solutions.

"The Commission expresses the wish that the candidate countries for entry into the Community act in concert with the Community. The Commission also desires that the United States and the Community be able to overcome the present difficulties in a spirit of cooperation and friendship."

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